

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 02374 131508Z

70

ACTION CU-03

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DEPT. FOR CU/AF, USIA FOR ICS/CA, IAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, NI

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN PARTICIPATION IN AFRICAN REGIONAL
CONFERENCE ON AMERICAN STUDIES

REF: LAGOS 2313

1. SUBJECT POSSIBILITY OF PARTICIPATION SOUTH AFRICAN SCHOLARS
WAS RAISED AT UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS LOCAL PLANNING MEETING FOR
ARAS CONFERENCE.

2. WHILE NIGERIAN MEMBERS OF HEMPORARY STEERING COMMITTEE DID
NOT INDICATE STRONG OPPOSITION IN PRINCIPLE TO INCLUSION
QUALIFIED SOUTH AFRICAN SCHOLARS INVITED BY REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMITTEE AND ACCEPTABLE TO FMG, CONSENSUS WAS THAT SOME AFRICAN
COUNTRIES EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO S.A. ISSUE AND UNLIKELY ATTEND
CONFERENCE WITH S.A. PARTICIPANTS. SEEMED GENERAL AGREEMENT
CONFERENCE SHOULD NOT BE JEOPARDIZED BY INJECTION THIS VOLATILE
ELEMENT. COMMITTEE VIEWS PROPOSED CONFERENCE AS EXCELLENT
OPPORTUNITY FOR SCHOLARS TO GET TOGETHER, AND DOES NOT WISH
INVOLVE POLITICS WHICH COULD POSSIBLY CRIPPLE OR CANCEL ENTIRE
EVENT.

3. NIGERIANS SUGGESTED CONSIDERATION THIS ISSUE AS POSSIBLE
TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION DURING MAY 16-18 REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
(RPC) MEETING, ALTHOUGH REITERATED INADVISABILITY RAISING THIS
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ISSUE IN ANY WAY PRIOR TO RPC MEETING.

4. NIGERIANS THOUGHT AFRICAN SENSITIVITIES MIGHT NOT BE TRIGGERED BY PARTICIPATION SA SCHOLARS RESIDENT IN U.S. HOWEVER, THEY GAVE IMPRESSION THAT IT UNLIKELY THEY WOULD PUSH FOR SA PARTICIPATION IN SPRING 1976 CONFERENCE.
CROSBY

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